The Concept of Tricennials

Summary: This article explains the idea of **tricennials** — strict 30-year time blocks beginning from 1 CE. It provides a clean timeline, mathematical reasoning behind 30-year structuring, and a table of tricennials including the 66th, 67th, and 68th tricennials. (Research presented by Niral Bhatt.)

What is a Tricennial?

A **tricennial** refers to a period of **30 years**. Similar to decades (10 years) or centuries (100 years), tricennials help divide history into consistent and meaningful segments for studying generational change, technological progress, and sociological patterns.

The year **2026** will begin the second quarter of the 21st century and the start of **Generation Beta** (corresponding to 136th quindecennial). However, it is **not** the beginning of the next tricennial. The current tricennial — the **68th tricennial (2011–2040)** — will continue until the year 2040.

Why 30-Year Periods?

- They often contain a full generational lifecycle: education, adulthood, career, and family formation.
- Large political, economic, and cultural transitions typically emerge clearly within 30-year windows.
- They are long enough to capture societal change, yet compact enough to compare across eras.

Tricennial Timeline (Common Era)

Tricennials are numbered sequentially starting from the beginning of the Common Era (CE):

Tricennial Number	Start Year	End Year
1	1 CE*	30 CE
2	31 CE	60 CE
3	61 CE	90 CE
…	…	…
66	1951 CE	1980 CE
67	1981 CE	2010 CE
68	2011 CE	2040 CE

**Note: There is no year 0. The calendar transitions directly from 1 BCE to 1 CE. Therefore, any timeline beginning from "year 0" is mathematically incorrect — including the widespread misconception that the 21st century started in the year 2000 (it began in 2001).*

Applications of the Tricennial Framework

- **Historical Research:** Group major events by consistent 30-year windows.
- **Sociology:** Compare generational behavior and transitions over equal spans.
- **Education:** Provide students a more structured way to understand long-term trends.

BCE Extension (Optional)

If we extend the system backward:

- **Tricennial 0:** –29 to 0 CE
- **Tricennial –1:** –59 to –30 CE
- **Tricennial –2:** –89 to –60 CE

This keeps the block size consistent even before the Common Era.

Conclusion

A tricennial is a 30-year period. Numbering these blocks from 1 CE helps create clean, consistent divisions for historical and sociological study. For instance, the **67th tricennial** covers 1981–2010 — the years many people today were born — while the **68th tricennial** (2011–2040) is the one we are currently living in.

This framework helps make sense of historical patterns, generational change, and the long arcs of social evolution.